

this number is expected to increase— increase dramatically—into the next century.

Food is the basic necessity of life. It is an unfortunate reality that many of the African people lead lives of need— less suffering because they don't have the skills and tools necessary to help themselves. As a result, many African countries are dependent on the outside world for humanitarian assistance and basic nutrition. These countries import a large percentage of the food they consume. Africa's food imports are projected to rise from less than 8 million metric tons in 1990, to more than 25 million metric tons by the year 2020. Mr. President, this is a very, very dangerous trend, and it must be changed, it must be reversed.

The bill we just passed is based on the insight that the most effective way to improve conditions for Africa's poor is to increase the productivity of their agricultural sector. Whenever I travel to developing countries, I always like to spend time looking at that country's agricultural sector. I have seen firsthand in many countries that their rural areas can succeed through agricultural development and through the right kind of assistance, the assistance that uses the expertise that we have in this country at our universities, the expertise that we have among our farmers, to share that knowledge and that know-how.

About 70 percent of Africa's poor live in rural areas. That is where the major problem is, and that is where this bill can make a difference, because not only do we want to see and help these individuals in rural areas feed themselves, we also understand that if they cannot feed themselves, what they do is move to the cities. When they move to the cities, many times the conditions are even worse than the conditions they left in the rural areas. It is a trend we see worldwide, and it is a trend that is very, very dangerous. It breeds instability, and it breeds other problems.

Rural and agricultural markets play a critical role in the majority of the African workforce. It has been reported that 70 percent of African employment is in the agricultural market. If we are serious about opening up new trade relations with the continent—and we should be—then we need to be aggressive in helping to strengthen the foundation for their survival.

Let me outline a few highlights of this bill.

This legislation first encourages agencies and organizations to make rural development issues a priority by teaching effective farming methods to small-scale African farmers and entrepreneurs. This is people to people, farmer to farmer and not dealing with many of these governments.

It provides African small farmers and entrepreneurs with improved access to credit and other resources necessary to stimulate production in microenterprise.

It mobilizes new resources for investment in African agriculture and rural development through the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

It facilitates the coordination of national and international agricultural research and extension efforts aimed at developing the skills of African researchers, African extension agents, farmers and agribusiness people. In fact, the bill would allow American universities to play a pivotal role in this effort.

Finally, this bill requires the U.S. Agency for International Development, when providing nonemergency assistance through the Public Law 480 title II programs, to include assistance programs for people who are otherwise unable to meet their basic food needs, including feeding programs for the disabled, for the orphaned, for the elderly, for the sick and for the dying.

African farmers and the African people are in dire need of agricultural development. This bill can help them gain the knowledge they need for this important development. At the same time, the legislation will help our own agricultural producers by opening new export markets for American farmers, especially those who deal with value-added goods.

Mr. President, as the economies in sub-Saharan Africa develop, their citizens' incomes will increase, thus raising their standard of living. In turn, they will be in a better position to purchase a new variety of goods, including American agricultural commodities and equipment. This is where our export markets can flourish. As a citizen of Ohio, I am excited at the export prospects for the hard-working farmers of my own State.

Another significant point to consider is that food stability is a critical factor in preventing civil strife within nations. Our investment in international agriculture and rural development will help reduce demands for U.S. disaster and famine relief.

International agricultural development assistance has depleted over time. In fact, over the past decade alone, money for this program has dropped by 70 percent. We should refocus our efforts in this important program, and this bill will do that.

Under this bill, USAID will be called upon to use its resources for programs and improved food security and agricultural productivity for African farmers.

This legislation has the ability to make a real difference in the lives of real people. As a compassionate Nation, we should want to aid those less fortunate to better help themselves. The bill will help these individuals make important progress in meeting human needs. In passing this bill, the U.S. Congress has done some very important work, and I congratulate my colleagues for the bill as we send it on its way to the President.

AN ATROCITY IN WYOMING

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, if I can turn to a much sadder topic. One of the saddest duties of public life is having to express moral truths. It is sad because it should be unnecessary. Thomas Jefferson two centuries ago enunciated some truths that he said "we hold to be self-evident." We hold to be self-evident.

It should be self-evident that in a country of liberty, a country of rule of law and respect for human rights that we should condemn the murder of any human being. We should, as a logical consequence of this principle, condemn the murder of people who have killed because the murderers disapprove of some aspect of the murder victim's personal life.

That is why our national attitude toward the atrocity that took place in Laramie, WY, on October 7 is so very important.

Let us all, as Americans, leave no doubt that the murder of young Matthew Shepard was a vicious, despicable crime. Again, it should—I repeat—should be self-evident. But Mr. President, I have seen news reports that protesters, demonstrators, hecklers went to this young man's funeral to spew hatred and venom. Some might say their demonstrations are protected by the first amendment, and that may or may not be true—and I am not going to deal with that and talk about that today—but what I wish to underscore today is that I, too, have first amendment rights—we all do—a right to tell the truth about these demonstrators' conduct. And to do so, polite phrases might not be enough.

So let's make it very clear: The people who committed this crime are despicable, they are scum. And the people who intruded on the privacy of this poor family, the family of the deceased, the people who intruded on their privacy at that hour of sorrow, to mock the deceased, mock this young man, these people who did this are lowlives—they should be condemned by all Americans. They deserve the contempt of all civilized people.

Mr. President, I see that my colleague from Virginia has been on the floor for some time. I also note the majority leader may be coming back at any moment. I would advise my colleague, the majority leader, as well as my colleague from Virginia, that I have some additional comments about another topic that would be fairly extensive. I would be more than happy to yield at this point, either to the majority leader or to my colleague from Virginia, just with the understanding that I will have the opportunity before the Senate does go out of session for the year to make these comments.

Mr. ROBB addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I appreciate the consideration of my colleague, the Senator from Ohio. I had planned to yield to the majority leader.

He had said that he was going to return to finish his wrapup. And, indeed, if he is ready to do so now, I will yield; otherwise, I will take advantage of this opportunity to make a few comments about the vote that we concluded this morning.

Mr. DEWINE. If I could reclaim my time, just for a moment—and the majority leader I do not think was on the floor when I made the comment—I advised my friend from Virginia, as well as the majority leader, that I do have some additional comments about a separate issue. I know the majority leader needs to do the final wrapup. I am not sure whether he is ready to do that.

Mr. LOTT. We are, I believe, ready to move through a number of nominations if you would allow me to proceed at this point.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now go into executive session and that the Senate proceed, en bloc, to the following nominations on the executive calendar: Nos. 597, 718, 733, 734, 735, 738, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 793, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 805, 806, 807, 809, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 851, 852, 854, 855, 857, 861, 862, 865, 866, 867, 869, 870, 871, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901 through 914, 916 through 926.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered en bloc are as follows:

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

Arthur A. McGiverin, of Iowa, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 2000.

THE JUDICIARY

Jose de Jesus Rivera, of Arizona, to be United States Attorney for the District of Arizona for the term of four years.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Bert T. Edwards, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of State.

David G. Carpenter, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State.

David G. Carpenter, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service.

Mary Beth West, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Executive Service, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, Fisheries, and Space.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Rebecca M. Blank, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

THE JUDICIARY

Rebecca R. Pallmeyer, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Nora M. Manella, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Jeanne E. Scott, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

David R. Herndon, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Nikki Rush Tinsely, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency.

THE JUDICIARY

Alvin K. Hellerstein, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Richard M. Berman, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Donovan W. Frank, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

Colleen McMahon, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

William H. Pauley III, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Thomas J. Whelan, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Robert Bruce Green, of Oklahoma, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

Scott Richard Lassar, of Illinois, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois for the term of four years.

James A. Tassone, of Florida, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Florida for the term of four years.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Henry L. Solano, of Colorado, to be Solicitor of the Department of Labor.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

Thomasina V. Rogers, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2003, vice Velma Montoya, term expired.

HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Joseph E. Stevens, Jr., of Missouri, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2003. (Reappointment)

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Paul M. Igasaki, of California, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2002, (Reappointment), to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Ida L. Catro, of New York, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2003.

Paul Steven Miller, of California, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for the remainder of the term expiring July 1, 1999.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Romulo L. Diaz, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

J. Charles Fox, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Norine E. Noonan, of Florida, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

MORRIS K. UDALL SCH. & EXCELLENCE IN NATL ENV. POLICY FOUNDATION

Terrence L. Bracy, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy for a term expiring October 6, 2004. (Reappointment)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Charles G. Groat, of Texas, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Bernard Daniel Rostker, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Arm.

THE JUDICIARY

Patricia A. Broderick, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Kenneth Prewitt, of New York, to be Director of the Census.

THE JUDICIARY

Natalia Combs Greene, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Neal E. Kravitz, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

Michael M. Reyna, of California, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration, for a term expiring May 21, 2004.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Eugene A. Conti, Jr., of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

Peter J. Basso, Jr., of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Greta Joy Dicus, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2003. (Reappointment)

Jeffrey S. Merrifield, of New Hampshire, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2002.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

David Michaels, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environment, Safety and Health).

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Eligah Dane Clark, of Alabama, to be Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals for a term of six years.

Edward A. Powell, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Management).

Leigh A. Bradley, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

THE JUDICIARY

Lawrence Baskir, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Robert S. Lasnik, of Washington, to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

Yvette Kane, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

James M. Munley, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Lynn Jeanne Bush, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

David O. Carter, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Francis M. Allegra, of Virginia, to be Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Margaret B. Seymour, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Aleta A. Trauger, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee.